

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00054 090934Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 090910Z JAN 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5001

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0054

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PDIP CH

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH

REF: PEKING 0046, STATE 004747 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. ON JANUARY 9, JAPANESE, CANDIAN AND PAKISTANI EMBASSIES PRESSED MFA TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION (AS REPORTED REFTELS) DISCOURAGING ATTENDANCE AT CHOU EN-LAI'S FUNERAL BY DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD. BY LATE AFTERNOON NONE HAD RECEIVED A DEFINITE TURN-DOWN.

2. JAPANESE EMBASSY TELLS US THAT MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CHU CHUAN-HSIEN SAID ON JANUARY 9 HE WOULD CONVEY TO HIS LEADERS THE DESIRE OF PRIMIN MIKI TO MAKE AN OVERNIGHT VISIT TO PEKING JAN 9 OR 10, IN EITHER OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY, TO EXPRESS HIS CONDOLENCES. MFA HAS DEALT IN SIMILAR FASHION TO REQUESTS BY PAKISTANIS FOR BHUTTO TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL, BY CANADIANS FOR SOME-ONE TO COME FROM OTTAWA, AND AN INQUIRY BY BRITISH AS TO WHAT REPRESENTATION FROM THE UK WOULD BE WELCOME.

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3. WE WILL PROMPLY REPORT OUTCOME OF THESE EFFORTS WHEN

KNOWN, HAVING IN MIND TIME CONSTRAINTS SHOULD CHINESE
CHANGE STANCE ON FOREIGN DELEGATIONS. OUR GUESS IS THAT
PRC WILL HOLD THE LINE, AND IN VIEW OF HAN HSU'S ADVICE
TO DEPARTMENT (STATE REFTTEL) AND OF PAST PRC PRACTICE ON
STATE FUNERALS, WE BELIEVE FOR THE TIME BEING THIS IS NOT
A QUESTION WE SHOULD PURSUE DIRECTLY WITH MFA.
THAYER

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